'PEOPLE'S VICTORY' 5-7 11/10/69

Garrison Winner In First Primary

Democratic voters gave incumbent District Attorney Jim Garrison a clear-cut victory in Saturday's first primary that caused the winner to say:

"I'll have to work hard for the people the next four years because I certainly belong to them."

GARRISON rolled up 53 per cent of his vote defeating his one major opponent, Harry Connick. Garrison had 84,992 votes while Connick got 60,385, about 39 per cent of the vote. Two other candidates in the race did not figure in the

JIM GARRISON

outcome. Charles Ray Ward, first assistant DA under Garrison for seven years, got 7,589 votes. Ross Scaccia, also a former Garrison assistant, got 4,523.

Garrison called the victory "a people's victory." He noted that he overcame the opposition of the States-Item and The Times-Picayune to win.

Garrison said he felt he won "because the people understood the issues."

ASKED TO specify what issues led to his victory, Garrison said that kind of analysis was best left to others. Then, he jokingly added:

"Perhaps it was because of my sex appeal."

He was also asked if the big victory was a mandate from the people to continue his investigation of the murder of the late President John F. Kennedy.

"It's a mandate to continue running the office as I've run it—independent of any outside control," Garrison said. "The Kennedy investigation is over and it was successful—although that won't be understood for some time to come."

CLAY SHAW, unsuccessfully prosecuted by Garrison for conspiring to kill Kennedy and found innocent, still faces perjury charges growing out of the first trial.

For Connick, the defeat was a bitter pill. He had hoped to face Garrison in a second primary.

The 40 per cent of the vote he polled was considerably in excess of the 18 per cent given him in September public opinion poll.

Connick had hoped that Ward might cut into Garrison's strong Negro following and thus force the second primary. As it became apparent that Ward's vote would be negligible, Connick's chances faded and he conceded at 12:10 a.m. Sunday, congratulating Garrison on his victory.

"I HAVE NO regrets," said Connick today. "I feel that I've learned a lot and made many new friends. Perhaps surprisingly, I find that I like politics.

"I feel that we gave it our best shot and lost," he added. "The good Lord willing, there'll be other times and other elections."